

REMARKS

Applicants cancel claims 7-11. Applicants note that claims 5 and 14 were previously canceled. In the present application, claims 1-4, 6, 12 and 13 are pending, of which claim 1 is independent. No new matter is introduced.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Response places the application in condition for allowance by canceling rejected claims and presenting only the allowed claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the claims to issuance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-4, 6, 12 and 13 are allowed.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,680,139 to Narayanan et al (hereafter “Narayanan”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0049518 to Nanaumi et al (hereafter “Nanaumi”). Claim 7 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Narayanan reference in view of European Patent No. EP 1289042 to Nanaumi et al (hereafter “EP’042”).

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Narayanan reference in view of the Nanaumi reference and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0113609 to Batfalsky et al (hereafter “Batfalsky”). Claim 8 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Narayanan reference in view of the EP’042 reference and further in view of the Batfalsky reference.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Narayanan reference in view of the Nanaumi reference and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,942,348 to Jansing et al (hereafter “Jansing”). Claim 9 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Narayanan reference in view of the EP’042 reference and further in view of the Jansing reference.

Claims 7-9 are canceled herein, rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the pending claims to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. TOW-066RCE2. In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith, and the requisite petition does not accompany this response, the undersigned hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized to be charged to the aforementioned Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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